

REMARKS:

1. Per Examiner's Final Office Action, attached is a complete listing of the claims with proposed modifications, including a Request for Continued Examination. The proposed modifications are presented in an attempt to overcome examiner's rejections in lieu of the Houseman (3,982,910) reference. Prior communications with the Examiner indicated that allowance would follow provided certain modifications to the claims were presented to overcome the Examiner's interpretation of the Houseman reference. Although the inventors maintain their objections to the examiner's citation of this reference, as presented in prior office actions, the proposed modifications to the claims are presented in an effort to move this application to issuance.
2. An explanation of the proposed modifications is as follows:
 - Claims 1 is amended to more clearly define the claimed combustion method to include directional limitations to flames of predominantly hydrogen (H₂) gas in the first combustion zone formed by igniting hydrogen from an external source. This differs from the Houseman reference, which teaches that a stream containing some hydrogen is recirculated from the combustion zone and injected into the area of primary ignition.
 - Claim 2 is amended to conform to Claim 1 modifications and improve claim wording. The most significant change is adding the mechanical rotation limitation as requested by the Examiner to bring this claim (and subsequently dependent claims) into allowance.
 - Claim 3 is withdrawn.
 - Claim 4 is modified to more clearly define the inventor's invention in lieu of Examiner's objections as stated in the Final Office Action.
 - Claim 5 is withdrawn since its limitations were essentially incorporated into Claim 1.
 - Claims 6 through 12, which are dependent on either Claims 1 and/or 2, are modified to conform to the prior amendments and to improve wording.
 - Claims 13, and Claims 16 through 20 pertain to a non-elected species and are withdrawn.

- Claims 21 through 23 are withdrawn.
- Claims 24 through 26 remain unchanged from prior submittals.



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